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HONOLULU, SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1846.

Commodore Stockton's Address before Mr. Armstrong's Congregation, on the afternoon of June 28, 1846.

STENOGRAPHISED BY C. G. HOPKINS, ESQ.

I came up here this afternoon by no means prepared for such an exercise as that requested of me, and if I consulted my own feelings on being thus suddenly called upon, I should certainly remain in silence. But standing here in the temple of God, and remembering that the opportunity to do good but rarely occurs, whilst that to do mischief and evil is the event of every day, I cannot refuse. What I do say I will say in the sincerity of my heart; it is the feeling I entertain towards you all, from your king down to his humblest subject, which will not allow me to keep silence.

We are always in the habit of referring to past times, and speaking of ancient nations and their learning and knowledge, but the truth is that in sound philosophy—paradoxical as it may seem—you being the youngest nation are in fact the oldest, and with your position as such you bear a commensurate responsibility. You are responsible for the advantages which surround you. You have been told by your spiritual advisers that our Savior died for you; His bloody sweat and agonies were for you; His cross and passion were for you; His precious death and burial were for you; the ascension was for you. *All the blood and suffering, all the trials and all the deaths which have happened in this world in the cause of civil and religious liberty, were for you. You have all the advantages of the past, and all those of the present. But all this experience purchased by others and all these advantages are not given to your king and you for his and your simple benefit; it is a solemn trust from Almighty God, and all of you will be held responsible for the fulfilment of your duties. This is a position you cannot escape; it is written upon every page of the Bible. With that belief let me ask you whether it is not well to consider what the advantages are of the age in which you live. Is it your belief that those advantages consist in the fact that architecture now raises her stately piles—or that the paintings of our day rival the art of the ancient masters—or that music swells her most delicious strains? No! These are all well. It is well that all the arts and sciences under Divine Providence are rapidly advancing. But it is in the spread of God's word and the principles of the Gospel, that your advantage lies. You cannot doubt the advantages of true religious light, or that religion is interwoven with man's nature. The history of the world shows that the earliest nations of the earth, no matter how far separated, no matter that they had never seen each other, or heard of each other, all agreed in bowing the knee to the Father of light.

Whence comes this island? How came this island to lift its majestic head above the roaring ocean? How comes this island to be peopled? By the arm of omnipotent power only. Again, how comes it that you are known to other nations of the world—how comes it that I see myself surrounded by persons from different and distant parts of the globe—how comes it that the missionaries, braving every danger and leaving friends and kindred, live amongst you, your preceptors in the knowledge of God—how comes it? By the will of God! Was it His will that you, that you should merely eat, drink and be clothed? Think you it was God's will that only the animal and physical wants of man should be administered to?

The Almighty Power that first created the world, afterwards destroyed man from off the face of that world. He was kind and benevolent, but man was rebellious and wicked. Man became so bad, he turned so constantly from the face of God himself, despised His warning voice, heard in the murmuring leaves; defied his power, seen in the tempest and felt in the lightning and the earthquake—in short, he became so bad that the only way to recover the earth that he had polluted was to destroy him from off it. Hence all the world except one man and his family were destroyed. Since that era God has constantly been bestowing upon man His kindest blessings, and man has ever since been and still seems to be in rebellion against God. Look at the nations of the earth which have been but are not. We have just heard mention made of Rome and Greece, but go back to the farthest page of

history, and see how nation after nation fell. Their laws were not founded in the fear of God, and with them might was right.

But the Bible teaches peace on earth and good will towards man. Turn over its holy pages, for in them the best lesson in individual and national happiness is to be found, and therefore it is, as I have had occasion to observe in another place, that you have enjoyed so much happiness and arrived at so much prosperity. This comes from your having been taught the word of God.

And now turn over the bloody record of man's doings. Reckless of their own happiness and in defiance of the word of God, what has become of them. Nation after nation has become mistress of the world, nation after nation has usurped the sovereignty of the sea, and now you can hardly discover where their gorgeous palaces and their imperial thrones were once erected.

What think you then in view of these things? Think you this island was brought out of the vasty deep to afford a field for the reception of such dark doings? There has been kindled here on these islands a flame which flourishes and increases, and joins with that other light which our noble missionaries have erected on the coast of Africa, a beacon by which those who will, may guide their course to heaven.

And thus it is that you have the responsibility placed upon you by God to guard this priceless treasure. But when He gives you the Bible, He does not give it to you to keep but to read; on the contrary He will hold you answerable for a proper use of it. Give me this Bible and I defy the world in arms. When I rely on it I appeal not to the power of man, but to the Lord of hosts.

I have said that the decay and fall of other nations is attributable to their disregard of the principles of this holy book. But let me revert for a single moment to one example in the very ocean upon which this island reposes itself. I speak of the Spaniards and Spain. She who in ancient times carried her portly bearing and her chivalry so high, she who had all nature to cheer her and all art and science to instruct her, where is she now? The short sighted politician would tell us she wants resources, physical as well as mental, but can we of the present age be satisfied with such an explanation? It is because the word of God's justice has gone forth. The curse of successful avarice and unbending brutality and unsparing tyranny is upon her. She made for herself a golden calf, and fell down and worshipped it, and now the blood of thousands and tens of thousands of unfortunate victims is smoking to heaven for vengeance, and when God in his mercy shall see fit to remove the curse, and not till then will that unfortunate country revive again.

From the Bible are to be taken lessons not only for nations to use as charts and principles, but for individuals also. It points the way to happiness in this world and in the next. All philosophers, ancient and modern, from the remotest times down to our own Franklin, have held happiness to be the great object of every man. But so dark have been men's hearts that the happiness of many have been caused by the destruction of the happiness of others. Envy and malice, contention and strife, war and misery have been fostered for the gratification of men's pleasures. The dirk of the assassin has been plunged into the heart of many a victim to procure the happiness of men. A man is ruined and his family beggared for the happiness of others. How can it be, that in seeking happiness, the great object of all our lives, man involves so many fellow men in misery? It is because man disregards the whispering of God in his ear, which tells him to consider what happiness consists in.

Let any man or woman who has arrived at the age of maturity, ask himself or herself, whether in the pursuit of happiness that person has not, as far as appears, gone directly in the wrong road?

Man is a much better animal in my judgment than is generally supposed. From the time of his first rebellion against God, man has been a sinful creature and unable to be saved but by the blood of our Savior, and yet I believe that when uncontaminated he is much better than most persons believe. My own experience of mankind has been considerable, and I will venture to say there is not one man in this assembly, no matter what his feelings of bitterness may be against his neighbor, or what he says of his friend behind his back, or what language he uses, but would rather befriend a man and do good than do harm.

Let me request of you to examine yourselves upon a question, and I do not believe

there is one individual here but will answer in the affirmative. That is, whether in your intercourse with others it does not afford you ten thousand times more pleasure to do a good action than it does to do an evil one? Man's kindness to his fellow man will become the rule when this Bible succeeds in regulating the will and passions of mankind.

All the troubles between man and man and all the troubles that have arisen in the christian community, arise in the first place from a disregard of its sacred precepts. Men are very apt also to excuse themselves by referring to the conduct of others, and to comfort themselves by asserting that what others are doing must be right, and they are only doing the same as others. It is very easy as the English proverb says for the monkey to use the cat's paws to get the chestnut out of the fire.

I have seen violent men, I have seen men supposed capable of swallowing fire, I have seen men put into heated ovens, but I have never yet seen that man, who if his mind were properly directed would not rather do a kindness than an injury.

The best man and the most charitable and the most generous, is I will venture to say, the happiest man. What is it that constitutes human happiness except it be the exercise of benevolence and charity. The reciprocity of good will between man and man during their short journey to the grave, makes up the sum of happiness. I speak as an individual having had some experience.

We see men living in magnificence, surrounded with wealth, and commanding all that can administer to their happiness, and yet they are not so happy as the humblest peasant, who as he sees a stranger in want passing by his door, gives him assistance out of his too scanty means. Such an one feels happiness indeed. Learned men and we who pride ourselves upon christianity, are very angry if told that intellectual enjoyments are not superior to enjoyments of an animal kind, but how many of the learned are there who learn just enough to wish to know more, and who find that learning by itself too often produces nothing but discontent in the human mind.

One word more. My belief is that the most benevolent man is the happiest. Were I to look abroad in the world for an example of happiness, I would search for the most benevolent man. The man that can forgive his enemy, that can conquer the proud feelings of the human heart, that can return good for evil, that is the man I envy.

The man who can go in search of the distressed, of the widow and her desolate children, and having found them can relieve them, that is a happy man. He who can go into the prison, like Howard the English philanthropist and relieve the wants and miseries of the most ajeet and sinful of his race, must indeed be happy. Oh, compare happiness such as his with that derived from power. Where is there one man in the civilized and christian world that would not rather wear the humble garment of Howard's happiness than the purple of imperial Rome!

Now I say that the only hope for happiness not only for this but for all countries, is that they shall avoid the rock upon which older nations have split.

If I could envy any, I could envy this gentleman standing by me, [the Rev. R. Armstrong] and all his fellow laborers in the good work. For my own part, I may never see you more, for I am going to return to the far, far distant land from whence I came. My poor name may perish and be lost, but this book [holding up the Bible] will ever remain, and do you remember that as the Almighty destroyed one generation for its perverseness, he may destroy another; therefore hold fast to this book as the foundation of your prosperity.

In bidding you farewell, I beg of you to search for that which is good, that you may be prosperous, and never to forget the responsibility imposed upon you. In your islands I have beheld the most interesting scene that my eyes have witnessed. It is not merely that you are christianized, but that in that fact I see the spread of that gospel which shall one day be known wherever the sun rises on this globe.

Once more I tell you that the prosperity of your country and the happiness of every individual in it, depends upon your endeavoring to live at peace with God and in good will towards man.

[The Commodore's remarks were interpreted by the Rev. R. Armstrong, as he spoke. The natives listened with attention, and it is believed they have made a deep impression upon them.]